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Campaign News: School Receives Two Transforming Gifts

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School receives two transforming gifts

Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion

In September, Amy Gutmann, president of the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Alan M. Kelly, former dean of Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine, announced a \$10-million gift from Vernon and Shirley Hill to the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The gift will be used toward the completion of a new teaching and research center, currently under construction, to be called the Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion. The building will open in the fall of 2006 and is the first new Penn Veterinary Medicine building in Philadelphia in 25 years.

Vernon W. Hill II is the founder and chairman of Commerce Bancorp, Inc. Shirley Hill is the founder and president of InterArch, an architecture and design firm in Mt. Laurel, N.J.

The Hills are residents of Moorestown, N.J. Vernon Hill is a graduate of the Wharton School at Penn.

The Hill Pavilion will be the new academic center of the Penn School of Veterinary Medicine. It will contain five floors, including teaching and library space, research laboratories and a vivarium.

"The gift from the Hills," said Amy Gutmann, president of Penn, "is the largest gift the Veterinary School has ever received from a living donor. It allows us to continue and expand the world-class teaching and research mission of the School."

"The Hills share with us our vision of being the world's premier veterinary educational center," said Dr. Kelly, "and they recognize the importance of the school. This new building has been one of my primary goals, and I thank the Hills for their support."

Vernon Hill said, "My wife and I are pleased to support the world's premier School of Veterinary Medicine which is a part of one of the world's great universities. Dr. Kelly and his staff are on a never-ending mission to advance the teaching, care and research goals of a great institution. We are pleased to have our name associated with both the University and the School of Veterinary Medicine."



Former Dean Alan Kelly with Shirley Hill, University President Amy Gutmann (holding Duffy) and Vernon Hill.

Photo by Sabina Pierce

Kresge Challenge

Before its October 1, 2005 deadline, the School completed the Kresge Challenge, a \$1.5-million grant from the Kresge Foundation of Troy, MI. The grant will be used toward completing the Vernon and Shirley Hill Pavilion, the new teaching and research building currently under construction in Philadelphia. The Kresge Challenge, issued in June 2004, required that the School raise \$13 million through 5,500 new gifts and pledges by October. The School met these criteria thanks to generous contributions from the Penn community, alumni, individual donors and various organizations. The Challenge was the largest ever for an Ivy League institution. ■